



# NEWS RELEASE

## OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

**For Immediate Release:**

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### **Fredericksburg, Va. Man Pleads Guilty to Human Trafficking Charge**

A Fredericksburg, Va. man has pleaded guilty to a single count of human trafficking related to a prostitution business operated in a series of rooms at a north Laurel motel in the summer of 2016. Stefon Tyrone Wormley, 32, pleaded guilty in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

Assistant State's Attorney Jennifer Ritter told the court that a 22-year-old woman contacted police officers seeking their assistance in extricating her from her pimp, identified as Wormley. She told the officers, as well as vice and narcotic detectives, that Wormley expected her to earn \$500-600 a night as a prostitute and that he would retain the proceeds. The woman produced cash receipts for the motel rooms, paid for by Wormley, whom she said controlled when she could eat and sleep. Ritter stated that the young woman told police that she feared Wormley and his threats of violence against her. An analysis of the woman's cell phone revealed text messages between Wormley and the woman that were consistent with prostitution and human trafficking.

Judge William V. Tucker set a sentencing date of December 22. Under the terms of the plea, Ritter indicated that she will seek a flat, nine-year prison sentence.

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